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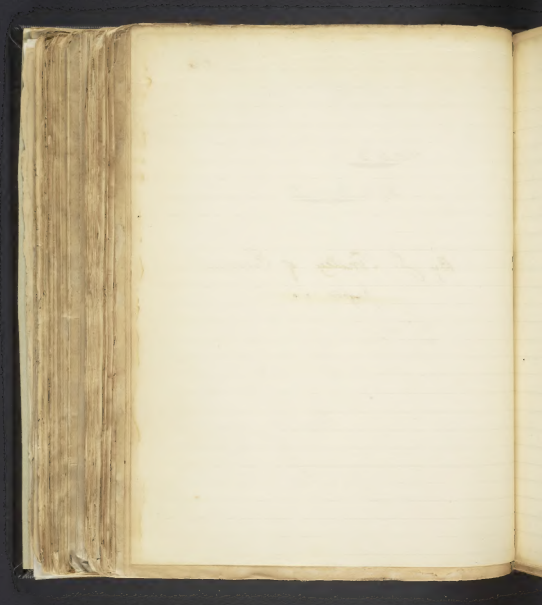
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Diabetes

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By J. Tinsley of Georgia
paper



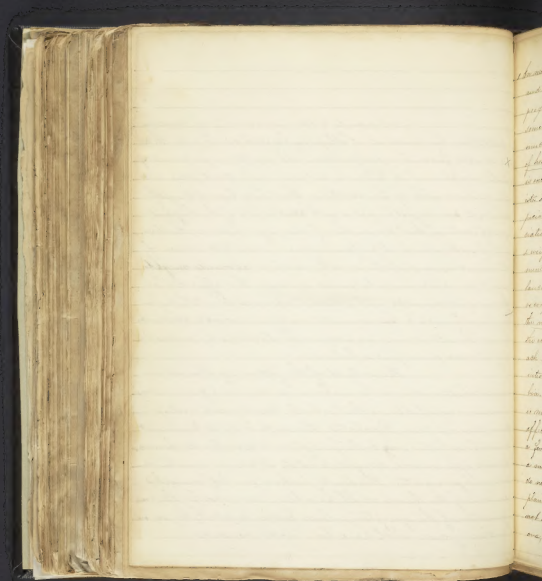
An
Inaugural Dissertation
on
Diabetes

1816



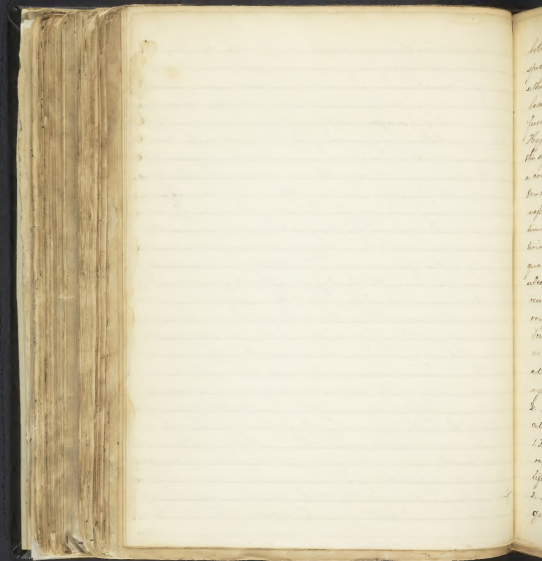
A severity to the respectability of Medical Institutions, has rendered it obligatory on each candidate, that he should furnish a composition, not merely as preparatory to the reception of his honors, but as an important clue in the groundwork of his election. That only has at length disclosed, on myself, & it is with sentiments of the highest gratification, that the author of this paper declares the share which with which its performance is made. But a series of the numerous imperfections, with which it abounds might seem to demand, even a large apology. This difficulty in the way of its character, will, I trust, be at once abated, by a simple reference to the circumstances of a medical student during his attendance on a course of Lectures, his duties being at once diversified & laborious.

The subject of the following observations which I shall endeavour to make, in as concise & perspicuous a manner as possible, is that which Neurological writers have chosen to term, Diabetes. The method of its treatment shall be as follows viz: In the first place, to describe its characteristic appearances. Secondly, to relate its causes remote, & sitting & proximate. Thirdly, to make a few brief remarks on some of the theories which have been advanced for the explanation of the symptoms & signs. Lastly, to detail the several methods of cure, which have been recommended.



1 In most instances the disease makes its approach by a frequent and copious discharge of limbed urine, which in its farther progress becomes highly charged with a saccharine principle. Sometimes it is perfectly insipid & watery; at others, it contains much mucus, & again at times its consistence is nearly that of honey, partaking very much of its taste & colour. The thirst is excessive, & appetite voracious, & much vomiting generally exists. The skin is generally dry, there is a considerable debility, especially in the legs, & the whole body gradually becomes emaciated. In many instances there is a strong sensation of pain & weight in the region of the kidneys & urinary passages, the mental energy seems to be on the decline, the reflections become languid, & the feelings & desires ^{of the mind} are totally averse to mental or corporeal exercise. The heat of the system is generally below the natural standard of the patient, the muscles are flaccid, the extremities indurated, there is frequently much heat, & many gastric affections, towards the end a diarrhoea, interrupted sleep, night sweats, & symptoms of Hydrophobia. It is in general a chronic disease. Those with which it is most usually combined, are several species of pulmonary affections, in which cases emaciation & great debility ensue, & a fever of the hectic type makes its appearance, though in a summer calculated to destroy the invalidities, or those who do not make a minute inquiry into the history of the complaint, the indistinctness of vision & troublesome vertigo are not infrequent & inconstant. The pulse being at all times one, indicative of debility, & neither disease with which Diabetes

Diabetes



letos is often accompanied, is dropping, particularly that species of it, termed anasarca, though an hydropic diathesis not infrequently prevails. The inferior excretories become considerably catarrhous, various to any copious effusions into any of the other great cavities. Nephritis & the suppurative is not infrequently preceded by Diabetes, in which the excretions are such as might be expected to result from a combination of such symptoms as they separately possess. In dissection the kidneys are ^{found} enlarged, this material compact mass destroyed, of a flaccid texture, a pale ash colour, sometimes this vascular capacity is increased, at others not materially altered, but containing in their infundibula a quantity of matter somewhat resembling pus, though no ulceration exists. Their veins are varicose, rendering them remarkably visible. At times the whole alimentary is deranged, its glands enlarged, & varying in figure & texture. Some of the lateral alveoli are found greatly augmented in size, the coats of the ^{bladder} are thickened, its capacity diminished & containing a quantity of urine holding by suspension a quantity of sedimentary matter.

2. The causes of Diabetes may be divided into remote, & active, & proximate.

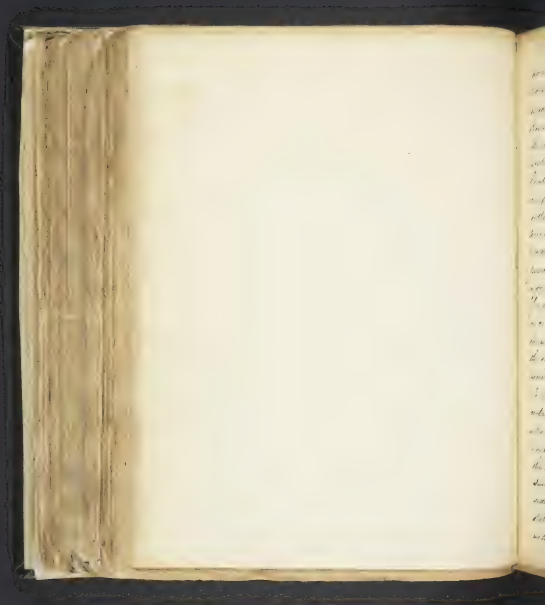
1. These are all such as induce debility, as constitutional naturally feeble, & those enfeebled by disease, the decline of life, sparseness, wholesome diet, climate, &c. &c.

2. The exciting causes are hot drinks, such as ardent spirits, garlic & ginger tincture, &c. excessive eating, drinking, or

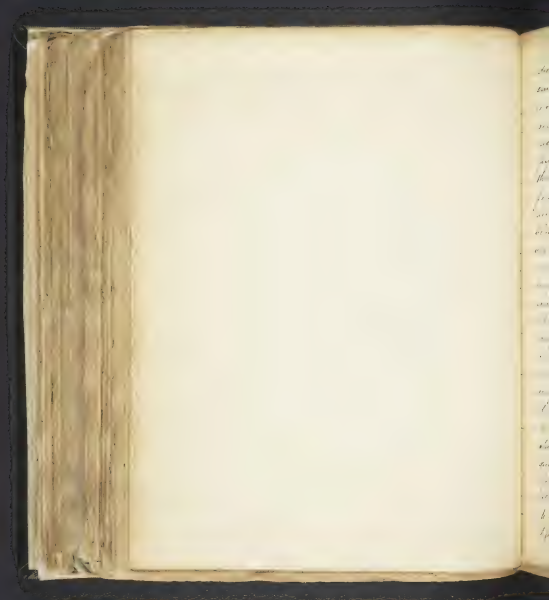
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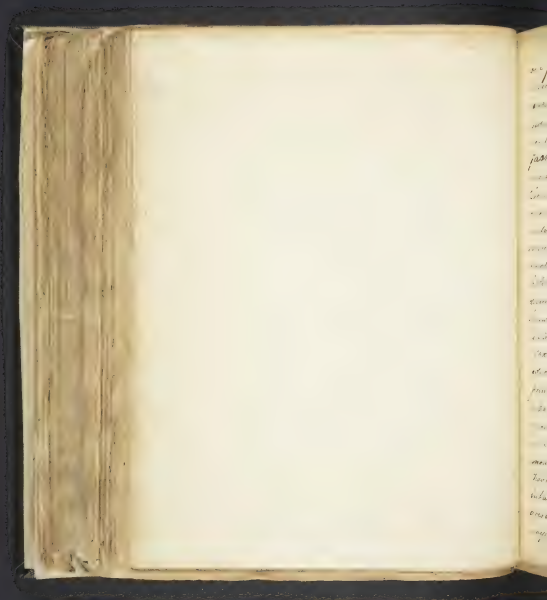
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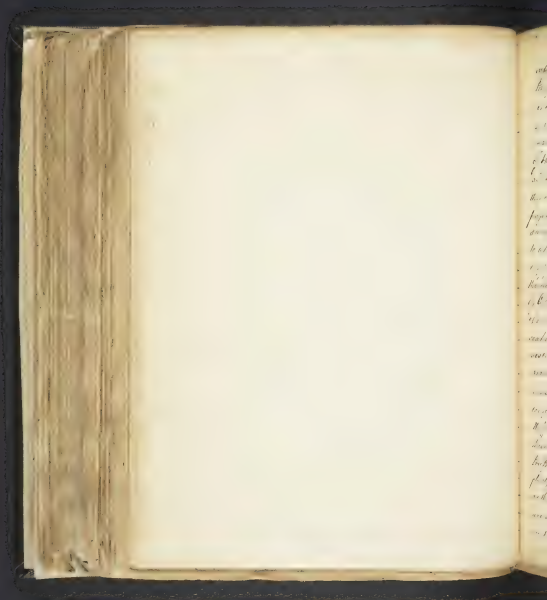
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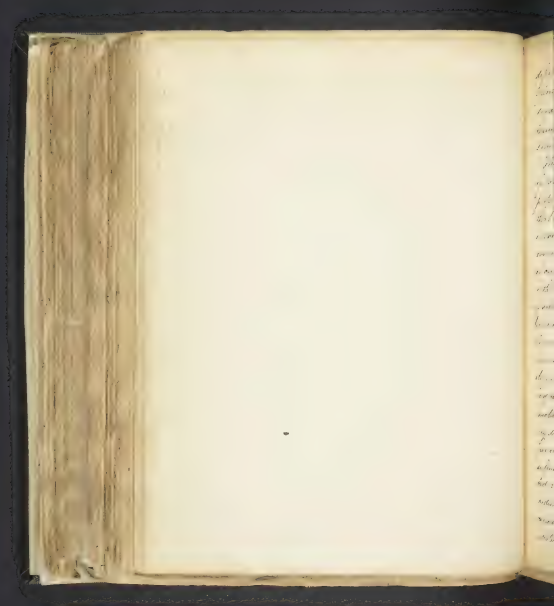


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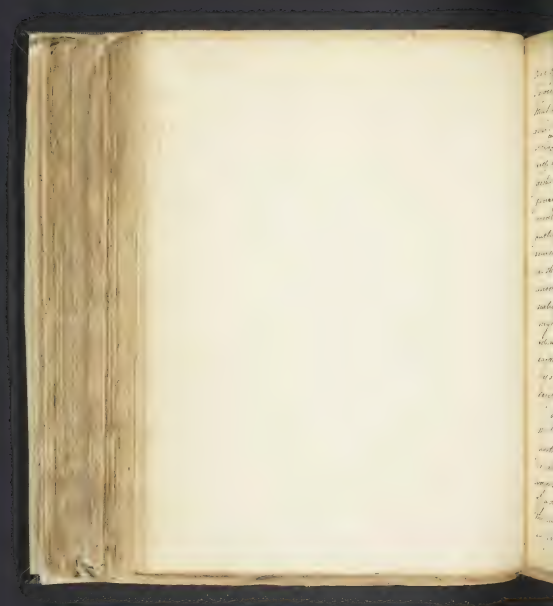
*Bye friends to the ladies & men who have a mind
To be as good as they are. I am, I am, I am,
But it is not so much as you think.*

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The first indication will be furnished by a request
 Empress Dowager to submit to the Emperor a memorial



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and diaphoretics must be employed. Among the most appropriate are some of the combinations of opium, with ipecacuanha & antimony; such as Dover's powder; calomel, opium & tartar benedict in minute doses; calomel, nitre & tartar emetic; chalk, ipecacuanha, opium & oil of cinnamon, made into pills; Laudanum, dul. Spt. Nitro & castor-
monial wine; spirit^{us} ipecacuanha. Diaphoretics in this disease should always be given so as to keep up a constant but gentle perspiration. Sweating is not to be desired. 1. Because the natural function of the skin, has its restriction for the object & the enormous quantity of water is to be removed in time by the operation of remedies to be hereafter mentioned. 2. Because sweating at all times induces a critical liability to sudden suppression, which in all chronic diseases are to be cautiously avoided.

The fourth indication is after an important consideration in this complaint, & if attended to, affords the practitioner an opportunity of communicating to the patient inestimable benefit of respite from a train of disagreeable sensations. There are headach, acidity at the stomach, flatulency, cardialgia, gastrodynia &c. all of which may be supposed to proceed from an excess of acid on the stomach and treated as such. The remedies are, calcareous earth; alkaline salts; anated alkaline water; the effervescent draught; lime water; vegetable bitter; magnesia &c. These should be taken immediately after each meal, & at bed time. Their design is to neutralize the acid and strengthen the digestive power.



The fourth indication is to restore the true & healthy vigour of the system & though simple certainly constitutes the basis of the treatment of this disease. It is founded on the belief that the causes of the symptoms are directly or indirectly debilitating, & that the fibres of every part of the system are in a state more or less of relaxation, denoted by the appearance on dissection of the motions, sensations, habits &c. of the patient prior to death. The remedies to be employed in its fulfilment are temperance in drinking & eating; moderate exercise; nourishing stimulating diet of which well seasoned animal food constitutes the chief; moderate use of wine; Peruvian bark, carbonate of iron & some astringent in the form of an electuary; carbonate of iron & Peru bark; Sulphate of zinc, valerian & Peruvian bark; sulphate of copper & extract of Bark; filings of iron & honey; Terebinthine, orange peel, gentian root & Bark &c. &c. These constitute the chief means in the removal of that debility which seems to constitute the ground work of all the symptoms of Lethy.

Wines
1316

